

The invention relates to the use of cryopreserved sperm for the maintenance of genetic lines in mammalian models. More specifically, the invention provides for methods of manipulating mammalian oocytes to increase the fertilizability of said cryopreserved sperm in order to maintain genetic lines. The invention may be applied to improve in vitro fertilization and other assisted fertilization means.

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests the entering of the above amendments, which inserts into the specification supporting NIH grant information relevant to the instant patent application.

Applicant believes that no fee is due in connection with this preliminary amendment. However, if a fee is in fact due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the same to our Deposit Account No. **08-3038**, referencing Docket No. 03887.0002.NPUS00.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

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GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

The work resulting in this invention was supported in part by National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant number U01 RR15012. The U.S. Government may therefore be entitled to certain rights in the invention.

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The invention relates to the use of cryopreserved sperm for the maintenance of genetic lines in mammalian models. More specifically, the invention provides for methods of manipulating mammalian oocytes to increase the fertilizability of said cryopreserved sperm in order to maintain genetic lines. The invention may be applied to improve in vitro fertilization and other assisted fertilization means.